



INSTITUTE FOR REGIONAL ANALYSIS
AND PUBLIC POLICY

100 LLOYD CASSITY BLDG,
MOREHEAD, KENTUCKY 40351.1689
TELEPHONE: 606-783-5420
FAX, 606-783-5092

July 12, 2001

Re: Support letter for the Kentucky proposal in response to NASA BAA-01-OES-01

Dear Dr. Asrar:

I am writing in enthusiastic support of the NASA proposal, "Enhancing Monitoring and Assessment of Forest Resources for the Commonwealth on Kentucky" (co-principal investigator: Susan Carson Lambert). This project establishes a broad and innovative partnership that will provide efficient and sophisticated technological approaches to the management of forest resources in Kentucky.

Morehead State has for more than a century been committed to excellence in education, scholarship, and service to the people of Appalachian Kentucky and the nation. The University's vision for the next century is to be a leading student-centered University linking the Appalachian region to the world through learning, discovery, and service. Through MSU's Institute for Regional Analysis and Public Policy (IRAPP) our university links with intergovernmental agencies, private partners, communities, and other organizations to focus efforts and energies on applied research initiatives that have the potential to beneficially impact the natural and social environment of the region. The broad-based partnership in this project will allow leveraging of resources and increased intellectual and technical capacity to serve citizens in our area more fully.

Dr. John Maingi, an IRAPP Geographer with specialization in remote sensing, is a co-principal investigator in this project. Dr. Maingi with assistance from IRAPP staff and students and in collaboration with other partners will develop the methodology to extrapolate information gained from high-resolution imagery to larger areas that only have moderate resolution. IRAPP will also work with project partners to perform classification accuracy assessments on maps generated by Space Imaging Services (SIS).

IRAPP was recently created as the University's state-designated Program of Distinction. **IRAPP serves** as an interdisciplinary natural and social science research unit for MSU and has as its mission the integration of University resources in serving our communities throughout the region. As Dean, I encourage and support the partnerships and collaborations in which MSU and IRAPP faculty and staff members participate. Furthermore, as a public institution in a rural, distressed region, MSU recognizes the need to use its resources strategically to achieve its mission of community outreach and service.



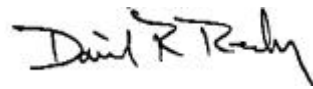
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The Institute for Regional Analysis and Public Policy and Morehead State University are committed to the success of the proposed project and look forward to working cooperatively with NASA to provide opportunities for faculty and students to participate in computer research and activities. We support this proposal and urge NASA to provide funding.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David R. Rudy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "D" and "R".

David R. Rudy
Dean